



Virginia Healthcare Workforce Briefs

Indicators from the Bureau of Labor Statistics'
Current Employment Statistics Survey
Series 1: State & National Employment

Series 1, Issue 67

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Data in the report are seasonally adjusted. Self-employed persons, including health professionals in private practice, are not included.

Highlights

- ◆ According to preliminary estimates, Virginia's Health Care & Social Assistance (HC&SA) sector broke a seven-month streak of positive employment growth after losing 300 jobs in September, which represents a one-month annualized growth rate of -0.8% . So far this year, Virginia's HC&SA sector has created a total of 8,500 new jobs.
- ◆ Virginia's job losses in its HC&SA sector contributed to a decline in the state's total nonfarm payroll in September. After falling by 6,900 in September, which represents a one-month annualized growth rate of -2.1% , Virginia's total nonfarm payroll has now declined for two consecutive months.
- ◆ The national HC&SA sector has experienced a considerable decline in employment growth over the past few months. In June, 50,600 HC&SA jobs were created across the country. However, national HC&SA employment only increased by 13,100 in September, its lowest monthly gain in nearly four years.
- ◆ The nation's total nonfarm payroll fell by 33,000 in September, which represents a one-month annualized growth rate of -0.3% . In addition, this also represents the first time in five years in which the nation's total nonfarm payroll has declined.

Data in Brief

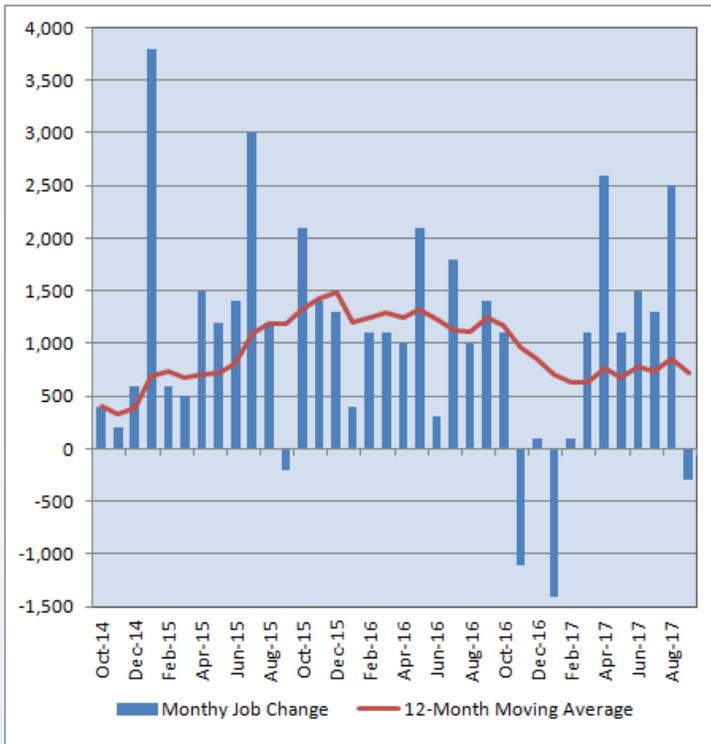
Seasonally Adjusted*	Employment, in Thousands				Growth Rate, Annualized		
	Sept. 2016	June 2017	Aug. 2017	Sept. 2017	12 Month	3 Month	1 Month
Nonfarm, Total							
Virginia	3,928.7	3,967.6	3,978.0	3,971.1	1.1%	0.4%	-2.1%
National	144,882.0	146,385.0	146,692.0	146,659.0	1.2%	0.8%	-0.3%
Health Care & Social Assistance							
Virginia	438.3	443.4	447.2	446.9	2.0%	3.2%	-0.8%
National	19,157.9	19,475.1	19,534.2	19,547.3	2.0%	1.5%	0.8%
All Other Nonfarm							
Virginia	3,490.4	3,524.2	3,530.8	3,524.2	1.0%	0.0%	-2.2%
National	125,724.1	126,909.9	127,157.8	127,111.7	1.1%	0.6%	-0.4%

Preliminary estimates are italicized

*Seasonally adjusted data are adjusted by the Bureau of Labor Statistics to account for weather, holidays and other seasonal changes. Economists use seasonally adjusted data to reveal underlying trends over time. This series uses seasonally adjusted data exclusively. When comparing data in this series to other HWDC series, or publications from other sources, it is important to note whether the data reported have been seasonally adjusted.

Virginia HC&SA Employment

Figure 1: Monthly Change in Employment in Virginia’s Health Care & Social Assistance Sector, Seasonally Adjusted.



According to the preliminary data released on Friday, October 20, 2017, by the U.S. Department of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics, Virginia’s HC&SA sector experienced its first month of negative employment growth since January after losing 300 jobs in September, which represents a one-month annualized employment growth rate of -0.8% .

Despite September’s employment decline, Virginia’s HC&SA sector still created 3,500 jobs during the third quarter of 2017. This gain translates into a three-month annualized employment growth rate of 3.2% , which is more than double the 1.5% overall national average for the HC&SA sector during the same time period.

Regardless, the 12-month moving average of the change in Virginia’s HC&SA employment fell in September after accounting for the loss of 300 jobs during the month. Over the past year, Virginia’s HC&SA sector has created an average of 717 jobs per month, which represents its lowest value since May. This average monthly gain translates into a 12-month employment growth rate of 2.0% , which is the same as the overall national HC&SA average.

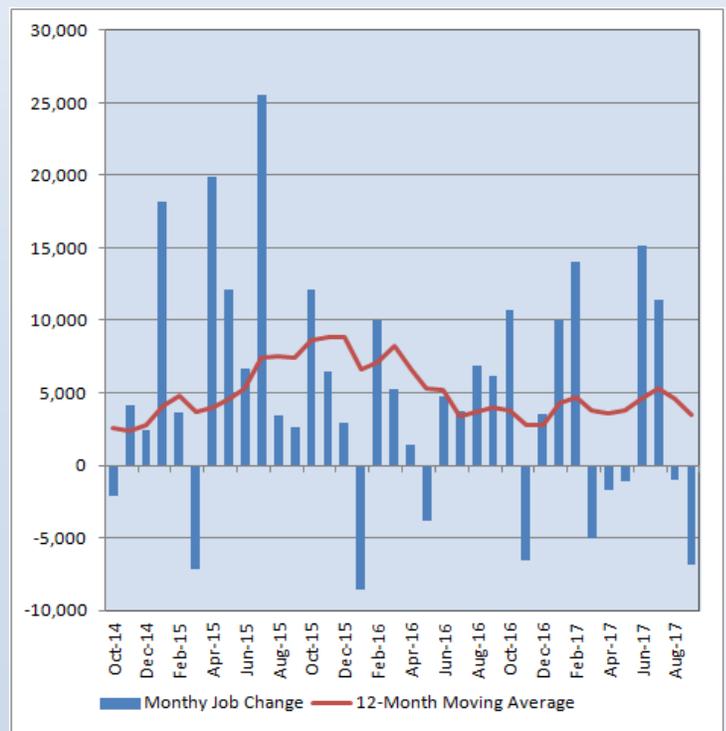
Virginia Employment

For the second consecutive month, Virginia experienced a decline in its total nonfarm payroll. After falling by 1,000 in August, the state’s total nonfarm payroll declined again in September by 6,900, which represents a one-month annualized growth rate of -2.1% . In addition, this result also represents the largest one-month decline in the state’s total nonfarm payroll since January 2016.

In June and July, Virginia’s total nonfarm payroll was showing signs of improvement. During these two months, Virginia’s total nonfarm payroll increased by 26,500. Thanks to these gains, the 12-month moving average of the change in the state’s total nonfarm payroll reached a 14-month high of 5,283 in July. However, after the losses of the previous two months, the 12-month moving average of the change in Virginia’s total nonfarm payroll has fallen to 3,533, which represents a nine-month low.

Virginia’s total nonfarm payroll has grown by 34,800 so far in 2017. This represents an improvement relative to the corresponding year-to-date gains observed in 2016 when the state’s total nonfarm payroll had only grown by 25,900.

Figure 2: Monthly Change in Employment in Virginia’s Total Non-farm Payroll, Seasonally Adjusted.

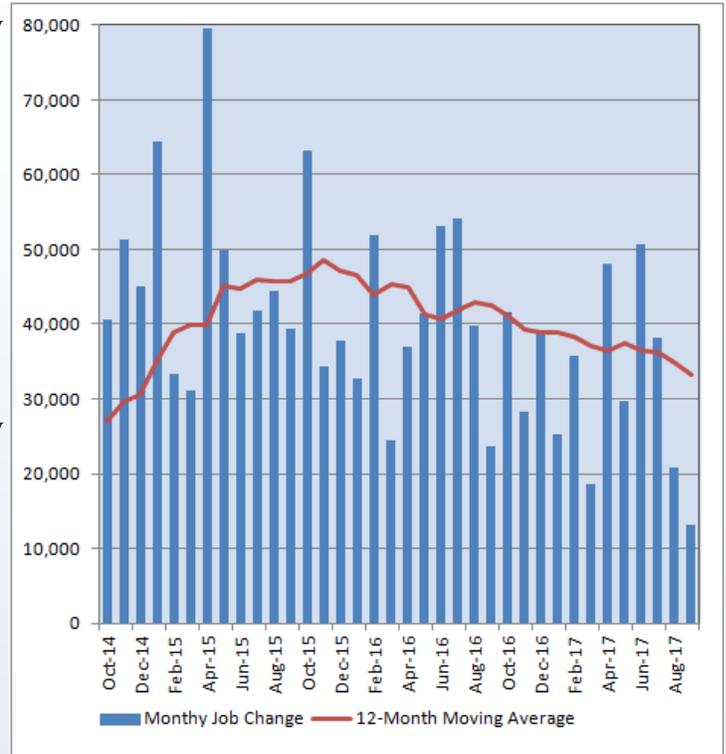


National Employment

The weakness in HC&SA employment was not isolated to Virginia in September. Instead, HC&SA employment weakness could also be observed in the broader national economy during the month. Three months ago, the overall national economy created 50,600 HC&SA jobs, its largest monthly employment gain in nearly one year. On the other hand, in September, the national HC&SA sector created a total of 13,100 new jobs, which represents a one-month annualized employment growth rate of 0.8%. This result also represents the weakest one-month job gain since December 2013, which was the last time in which the national HC&SA sector lost jobs.

The weakness in the national HC&SA sector reflected heavily in the results for the nation’s total nonfarm payroll in September. In fact, the nation’s total nonfarm payroll actually fell by 33,000 during the month. This is the first time in seven years in which the nation’s total nonfarm payroll has experienced a monthly decline. Regardless, the nation’s total nonfarm payroll has grown by 1.2% over the past 12 months, which is slightly faster than the 1.1% growth rate in Virginia’s total nonfarm payroll.

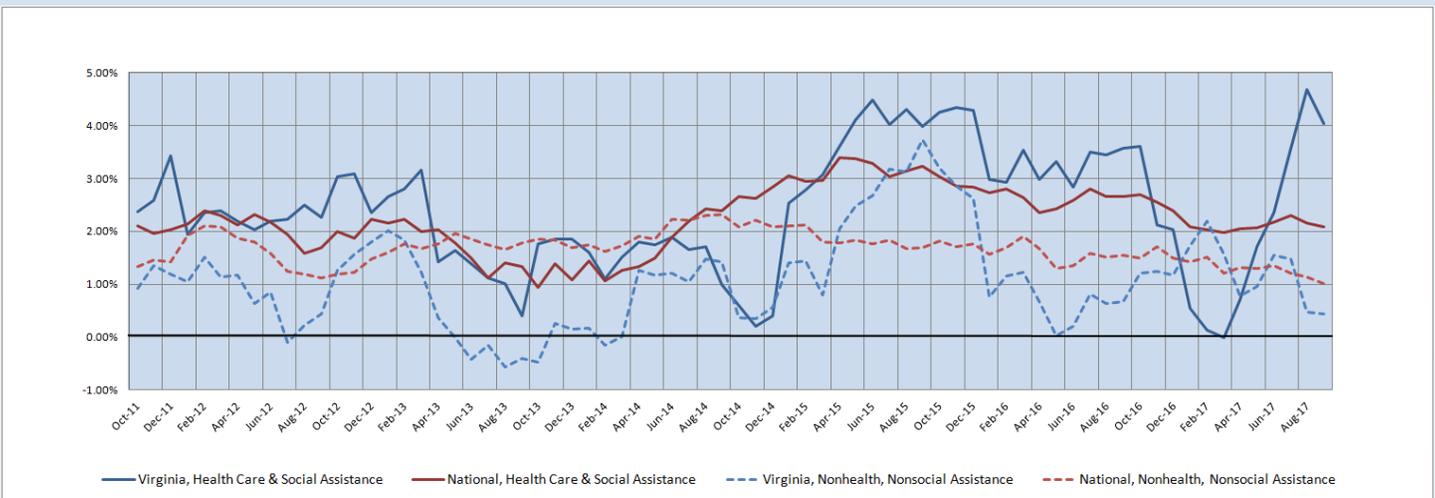
Figure 3: Monthly Change in Employment in National Health Care & Social Assistance Sector, Seasonally Adjusted



State Employment Growth

After reaching its highest value in more than nine years in August, the six-month moving average of the employment growth rate in Virginia’s HC&SA sector declined from 4.69% to 4.05% in September. Even with September’s decline, however, this moving average has still experienced a dramatic turnaround since reaching a low of -0.01% in March. The six-month moving average of the growth rate in Virginia’s total nonfarm payroll also declined in September, albeit less dramatically. This moving average declined from 0.47% to 0.44% during the month. As for the national economy, the six-month moving average of the employment growth rate in the national HC&SA sector fell from 2.15% to 2.09%, while the corresponding moving average for the nation’s total nonfarm payroll declined from 1.13% to 1.01%.

Figure 4: Six-Month Moving Average, Employment Growth, Seasonally Adjusted



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The Department of Health Professions Healthcare Workforce Data Center works to improve the data collection and measurement of Virginia's healthcare workforce through regular assessment of workforce supply and demand issues among the 80 professions and 350,000 practitioners licensed in Virginia by DHP.

The HWDC collects data on Virginia's licensed health professionals through surveys completed during the online license renewal and application process. Survey results and data may be accessed on our website: www.dhp.virginia.gov/hwdc/.

The HWDC also provides a series of Virginia Healthcare Workforce Briefs based on data collected by the US Department of Labor's Bureau of Labor Statistics and the US Department of Commerce' Bureau of Economic Analysis.

Virginia Healthcare Workforce Briefs:

Series 1: State & National Employment (Monthly)

Series 2: Virginia Regional Employment (Monthly)

Series 3: Income & Compensation (Quarterly)

About the Data

Data in this report are from the US Department of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics' Current Employment Statistics program. The CES program surveys about 143,000 businesses and government agencies monthly. Unless otherwise noted, this series uses seasonally-adjusted data that removes seasonal variations related to weather, holidays, weekends, seasons and other predictable variations. This allows us to better examine underlying trends in the labor market. Data from recent months are preliminary and subject to revision in future releases from the CES. Revisions will be reported in future editions of this series. Unless otherwise noted, the CES data presented in this series:

Includes:

- ◆ Data on employed individuals drawing a paycheck (payroll employees).
- ◆ All employees, regardless of role, occupation or hours worked.
- ◆ HC&SA employees in the private sector only.
- ◆ Persons employed by health professionals in private practice.
- ◆ Both government and private sector workers in nonfarm employment data.

Does not include:

- ◆ Self-employed workers or volunteers, including health professionals in private practice.
 - ◆ HC&SA employees in the public sector. (These are counted as government workers in monthly reports).
 - ◆ Information on hours worked or the quality of employment.
 - ◆ Government workers in HC&SA level data. (Government workers, regardless of occupation and role, are classified as public sector employees).
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